

From: Jim McGurrin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 10:21am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

Please do consumers a huge favor and DO NOT leave the language of Section III(J)(2) and Section III(D) as is. If you really are interested in promoting competition and innovation, level the playing field by allowing open source software to compete unobstructed by Microsoft's interpretation of "business criteria". If there is ANY competition for Microsoft at all - it is in the open source world, specifically linux. Microsoft is fully aware of this and the DOJ is not playing their oversight role if language such as this is left in the settlement.

As a side note, it is naive to allow Microsoft to extend their monopoly by allowing, as a "remedy", the putting of their software in our school systems for 5 years. This will damage Apple and others and not Microsoft at all, and it is not doing those school systems or the kids any where near the good spending that same level of money on other technologies (ie open source). Take a hard look at RedHat's counter proposal to provide ALL school systems the software and support.

Please take do not rush to "clear" this case in an effort to "jump start" the tech sector with a pro-microsoft remedy. This is a crucial time in our industry and decisions here will set the direction of our industry (stagnant monopoly dominated or vibrant competitive diversity) for the next ten years at least, and like dog-years, ten tech years are like 70 normal years in terms of the effect on economy wide productivity growth.

If allowed to compete on a level playing field, Linux is a viable competitor to Microsoft, but if linux is to really have a chance to compete for the desktop then it needs to be seen as having a chance of success so that software vendors will put resources into writing applications targeted for linux - without fear of reprisal from Microsoft.

Thank-you